

A purple pencil is positioned diagonally on the left side of a piece of lined paper. The paper features cursive handwriting, including the words 'School', 'Work', and 'Home'. The background is a warm, orange-brown gradient.

System-Wide Parent Teacher Advisory Council

We believe that parents are partners in education and that their concerns are reasonable and important.

Five Ws and a H



What is System-Wide PTAC? (Parent Teacher Advisory Council)

- A collaborative initiative between Administration and Parents to improve overall operations of the Wallingford Public School system
- Each school has a PTAC as well as representation on SWPTAC
- All meetings (PTAC and SWPTAC) are open to the public
- “Membership” consists of ALL parents, teachers and officers
- Officers are responsible for administrative duties such as minutes, agendas and establishing work groups
- There are NO formal voting rules
- Topics discussed are neither personal nor personnel in nature
- All identified items of concern are escalated to the Principal, Superintendent and/or BOE

Why be involved in System-Wide PTAC?

- As parents if we expect our children to be involved and make a difference, we should model the behavior
- When we share our ideas we excite others about the possibilities for the future
- It's fun to challenge the status quo
- As parents work together they gain strength and are more likely to be innovative to improve their school or district
- Every parent has something to offer and should feel comfortable sharing their ideas

Where were our accomplishments?

- Parent-led support of BOE budget resulted in restoring \$515K to sustained services budget
- Parent-led agenda items resulted in several subcommittees including bus safety and community-wide technology initiative
- Coordinated volunteers for special projects with Administration
- Successfully supported Parent Leadership Program
- Held monthly meetings which included:
 - Roundtable review of school PTACs
 - Updates on strategic plan initiatives

- Curriculum and Instruction
- School Climate
- Community Outreach and Partnerships
- Technology
- Facilities

When can we expect more results?

- Parent involvement is key to issues not driven by the strategic plan
- Several initiatives began as a results of parent requests and interest
 - Expanding high school sports to include Lacrosse
 - Early Childhood Exploration Committee (Full Day K)
- After gathering data and giving feedback the Board of Ed may decide to include new initiatives in updates to the strategic plan

Who heard us?

“Out of all the years I’ve been doing the budget the BOE was louder than ever. The Superintendent and the Chair of the BOE had impressed upon us more than ever the need to have a little bit more of the funding that they had initially asked for being restored.

That cry was louder than ever and the cries of Parents of students was much more intense than in any other budget season.”

Vinny Cervoni, Chairman, Town Council

Source: Citizen Mike Show 6/12/14

How do we move ahead and build upon our success?

- Increase parent involvement by reaching out to new parents entering the system as well as existing parents who may not be involved
- Consider expanding Parent Ambassador program to include Parent Alumni/Mentor component
- Keep parents informed by posting meeting schedules, agendas and minutes online
- Share best practices between PTAC groups and consider a joint PTAC meeting by type (elementary, middle and high schools)
- Make meetings convenient for parents including flexibility to be involved without having to attend every meeting